The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1917, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

VOL. 9. NO. 26. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1919. WHOLE NO. 442.

GOMPERS REPLIES TO GOV. COOLIDGE

New York, Sept. 20.—Complying with President Gompers' request to call the strike off, the Policemen's Union of Boston immediately called a meeting to decide on what action should be taken. They determined to conform to the advice given, terminate the strike and instructed its members to report for duty which they did. Their offer was rejected by Police Commissioner Curtis, who informed them a new force was being organized, and their services would not be accepted.

When this condition was made known to President Gompers, he wired Governor Coolidge, urging that a more conciliatory plan be pursued. The governor answered by saying that he would support the commissioner in his action in dismissing the policemen. The course of Police Commissioner Curtis was due to the fact that he assumed an autocratic power and discharged several police who had joined the union, thereby precitating the trouble that terminated in the strike. When appealed to to defer further dismissals, he autocratically refused to heed the request.

In answer to Governor Coolidge's message sustaining the police commissioner, President Gompers sent the following reply:

"The unionizing of policemen is not of the seeking of the American Federation of Labor. Their voluntary organizations and insistent demands for charters is the natural reflex of futile individual attempts to improve working conditions. Therefore the American Federation of Labor was and is called upon to meet a situation created by incapable, negligent or autocratic municipal authorities. When men are underpaid or made to work under bad conditions they seek redress. Unable to right their grievances or obtain better working conditions from their immediate superiors, they look for redress elsewhere. This was the case in Boston.

"When policemen accept charters from the American Federation of Labor it is with the distinct understanding that strike action will not be resorted to, and no obligation is assumed which in any way conflicts with their oaths of duty. In the American Federation of Labor they are given sane advice and counsel—out of it, or affiliated with some un-American or irresponsible organization, a situation might develop which would cause real concern and for which the American Federation of Labor does not care to accept even remote responsibility by refusing to take them in and guide them aright.

"Unfortunate and regrettable as the strike of the Boston policemen was, surely sound public opinion will make the authorities in Boston admit and share their own full responsibility for it. The situation in which the policemen find themselves today was provoked and practically forced upon them by the autocratic action of Police Commissioner Curtis, who at any time might have honorably settled the dispute by such action as is naturally expected of a public official in his responsible position.

"Even now, vested with individual, autocratic authority, with which the governor states that he has no power to interfere, he declares the places of approximately 1,400 policemen vacant. Surely there is some weight of justice in Boston that will prevent this individual, whose vision and interests probably do not extend beyond the scope of the Boston police area, from openly antagonizing the great American labor movement and making the work of its officers to lead along sound and progressive lines most difficult, if not impossible.

"If the authorities give no consideration to the human side of the question or to the advice and suggestion which I had the honor to make, then whatever betide is upon the head of the authorities responsible therefor."

In company with a representative of President Gompers, several of the Boston labor officials held a conference with Police Commissioner Curtis, lasting 45 minutes. Neither side was apparently disposed to divulge the result. What further will be done is problematical at this time.

Since the development of the trouble in Boston the mayor and police commissioner of that city have recommended $300 increase in pay for the police. The mayor of New York was waited on by a committee representing each department of the police and urged to fix a minimum of $1,600 per year. The mayor of Worcester, Mass., has also assured the police of that city that he will recommend the increasing of the pay of patrolmen to $5 per day. In contrast with these recommendations is the fact that the Washington police force has only received one increase of $10 and a bonus of $20 during the past 13 years. Certainly these conditions will appeal to all fair-minded citizens and in a measure justify the action of the police in seeking some remedy. Were it admitted the strike in Boston was a mistake, already beneficial results are apparent.

PRINTERS GET RAISE.

New Haven, Conn., Sept. 20.—Printers in the commercial branch have been conceded an advance of $4 per week. This action was taken when a delegation of Typographical union No. 47 conferred with a committee of the Typothetae.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 20.—The new increase of $6 a week is in effect in all job offices, being a total gain of $14 a week in 18 months. It is also announced that the Press had inaugurated a policy of giving all members of the chapel a vacation of one week on pay each year.

GIVEN 10 PER CENT RAISE.

Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 20.—The Theatrical Stage employes and the musicians were given a 10 per cent increase by the theatrical managers of the city, effective September 1. The old agreements did not expire until the 15th. The Movie Picture Operators have also negotiated a new scale which ranges from $27.50 to $35, graded according to the seating capacity of the show house.

JEWELRY WORKERS UNITE.

Omaha, Nebr., Sept. 20.—A union of jewelry workers has been formed with a charter from the International Jewelry Workers' union, which includes 60 per cent of eligible workers in the city.

WILL ARBITRATE.

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 20.—The electricians and street car employes of the Rail-Light company have returned to work. Each union has agreed to submit its grievance to an arbitration board.

CURE FOR RADICALISM SHOWN BY PRESIDENT

Helena, Mont., Sept. 20.—The best way to silence protestors against wrong is to right that wrong, was the sentiment expressed by President Wilson in a speech in this city.

The president offered little encouragement to the man who prides himself on a conservatism that is blind to orderly progress, and he said he did not intend to ask men to cease agitating against wrong while wrong existed, but he did ask that these agitators and radicals apply methods provided by the laws of the country to adjust grievances against which they protest.

"There is only one way to meet radicalism," he said, "and that is to deprive it of food, and whenever there is anything wrong there is abundant food for radicalism.

"The only way to keep men from agitating against grievances is to remove the grievances, and as long as things are wrong I do not intend to beg that they stop agitating. I intend to beg that they will agitate in an orderly fashion; I intend to beg that they will use the orderly methods of counsel.

"Otherwise we will have chaos; but as long as there is something to correct, I say, God speed to the men who are trying to correct it. That is the only way to meet radicalism. Radicalism means cutting up by the roots. Well, remove the noxious growth and there will be no cutting up by the roots. Then there will be the wholesome fruitage of an honest life from one end of this country to the other."

Many persons, he went on, were convinced that the control of business of the country was in too few hands.

"We have not finished dealing with monopolies," he said. "With monopolies there can be no industrial democracy. With the control of the few, of whatever kind or class, there can be no democracy of any sort. The world is finding that out in some portions of it in blood and terror."

BROOM MAKERS MAKE GAINS.

Chicago, Sept. 20.—Will R. Boyer, secretary-treasurer of Internationa Broom and Whisk Makers' union, says: "We made wonderful progress during the past month. The 8-hour day has been adopted nationally, and 453 out of 487 shops signed up without a strike, with an increase in wages of from 20 to 51 per cent and the 44-hour week.

"Charters have been issued to broom makers in Peoria, Ill.; Mobile, Ala.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Nashville, Tenn.; Meridian, Miss.; Hannibal, Mo.; Evansville, Ind., and Logansport, Ind.

"In Chicago Local Union No. 29 with a hundred per cent organization, signed with all manufacturers for a reduction in hours from 52 to 44 and an increase in wages from $6 for nine hours to $7.40 for eight hours and all helpers the same reduction in hours and 15 per cent advance in wages.

"Through the efforts of organized labor the manufacture of brooms has been abolished in the state prison at Lincoln, Nebraska. Sixteen million union label brooms were made in the past year. Do you have one in your home?"

STRUCK TO ENFORCE LAW.

Gary, Ind., Sept. 20.—Members of the Plumbers' and Steam Fitters' union No. 433 were locked out by Master Plumbers' association because the members working on the parochial school toilets refused to install toilet fixtures which, they claim, would be in violation of the law and which their union forbids them to do. Each member of the union is given a copy of the sanitary laws, and failure to follow its specifications results in penalization. The Master Plumbers' association insisted that the toilet fixtures be put in. The members of the union, realizing that the issue had to come, refused to comply with the order given. They hope by this action to bring these violations of the law to the attention of the authorities and have them remedied, and protect the lives of Gary's citizens. Should the fight be prolonged there promises to be some flagrant violations of the sanitary laws exposed and cause unexpected trouble for the master plumbers.

TIMBER WORKERS BOOMING.

Seattle, Sept. 20.—Secretary Treasurer John Norland, of the Timber Workers union, reports the following new unions:

In the states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota the work of organization is going on rapidly. One organizer in Michigan signed 2,300 members in three weeks. During the past two weeks five new locals have been installed there.

In Wisconsin during the same time six new locals have been installed. At Odanah, Wis., about 300 Indians joined their new local.

Locals were also installed at St. Helen's, Oreg.; Ft. Francis, Ontario, Canada; Rio Dell, Cal.; Prescott, Oreg., and at Hoquiam, Wash.

At present there are over 147 locals affiliated to the International Timber Workers' union.

DEMANDS CONCEDED.

Stockton, Cal., Sept. 20.—The Draymen's association yielded when the 700 members of Teamsters' union No. 70 and the 300 newly-organized warehousemen showed a determination to enforce the demands they had made for increased wages. The new rates give the teamsters and truck drivers from $5.50 to $7 a day. The latter figure will be paid drivers of large trucks. The warehousemen also receive an advance of approximately $1 a day.

GRIEVANCES ADJUSTED.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 20.—Garment Workers' union No. 260 has settled its strike with the shirt firms in this city, securing reduced hours and a wage increase. The new conditions provide for 44-hour week, time and a half for overtime, double time for Sundays and an increase of 7½ per cent. Hereafter needles and thread will be furnished free, wage of time workers will be advanced $2 per week, and a minimum wage of $20 for cutters.

SECURED AN INCREASE.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 20.—A substantial increase has been secured by the members of the Modelers', Model Makers' and Casters' union No. 482, of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International union. The modelers raised their scale from $7 to $8.50. Model makers and casters received a similar increase, advancing their rate from $5.50 to $7.

QUACKERY AND FAKERY EXPOSED.

Democracy in industry is a very real thing toward which human society is advancing. But since that remote day in which some wise person learned the gentle art of deception there has never been a noticeable lack of devotees. Someone is always ready to try a hand at producing "something just as good," or something which will pass for the genuine.

So it is with industrial democracy. The past month brought a dozen reports of "industrial democracy" in practice. The lesson in deception has been handed down from generation to generation. The modern practitioner has lost none of the finesse of his forbears. On the contrary, there are indications that in many cases he excels, going so far as to deceive himself. It is possible that some of the employers who are puting "industrial democracy" into effect are themselves deceived into the belief that their article is genuine.

This manifestation is, in a way, a sign of the times. Employers who realize that the industrial autocrat has had his day strive, from one of two motives, to set up something in place of industrial autocracy that will look like that for which the new day calls. Employers may do this from a genuine desire to better the lot of those working people who operate the plants, or they may do it out of a desire to halt progress half way by means of a decoy.

The superficial movement toward "democracy" as embodied in the various schemes devised by employers is given a fresh impetus by the host of men and women released from war service in Washington. This host of men and women, having had something in an emergency capacity to do with production during the war, now step forth as industrial experts ready to pour advice into the ears of employers—ready and eager to devise for them attractive and beneficent schemes for "model" shop "government" of one kind or another. Dozens of these "expert" advisers are at large in the country. Some of them did get a real insight into the problems of industry. Some of them may have been little more than filing clerks. Others were employed in various capacities, ranging from letter writing to inspection of output. Practically none of them ever labored in their lives, in the strict sense of the word, and many of them never had a liking for the laboring classes except as producers of wealth in which they are not expected to share. Most of them are self-imposed authorities. Some may have attained scholarship and perhaps chairs in institutions of learning. Others again may have amassed fortunes and find it a peculiarly interesting and profitable pastime to play with the lives and conditions of the wage-earners. These men have yet to learn, however, that the workers are humans like themselves, capable of self-expression and self-determination and that the wage-earners of America can not be treated by the yard-stick or moved about in a cold, academical, statistical and mechanical fashion like so many pawns on a checker board.

The war is over and everybody is talking about labor. Casting about for some outlet for their energies, many of these men pick on the "labor situation" and become labor or industrial "experts" or "adjusters."

Many an employer is being "experted" or "adjusted" into some new channel by a highly skilled benefactor who served ten months at a desk in Washington and is now ready to reshape the world.

In this ferment it is not surprising that there should be a rapid increase in the number of employers who are willing to experiment under the kindly—and perhaps costly—tutelage of the mentor from Washington.

Generally, these proposals are variations of the "company union" idea. Sometimes they comprise a "shop committee" plan. Then again they may embrace the more elaborate and elusive "government" organized into "house," "senate," "cabinet," etc. In some cases stock ownership is a feature, while in others representation on the board of directorate is conceived as the panacea for industrial democracy. Sharing in excess profits also seems to be a popular plan which has been urged as another method of industrial democracy.

The only kind word that could be said for these schemes is that they might prove their own futility to labor, if they could be tried out without destroying the labor movement, and thus lead to something fundamental in the way of approach to democracy. But there has been proof enough—proof to spare; no more proof is needed to demonstrate that labor's future must be worked out for labor through its own trade union organizations, directed by labor, without the patronage of employers or so-called industrial experts.

There has yet to appear the first employer or industrial-expert-made "industrial democracy" plan which contemplates the existence of trade union organization as the expression of the workers' desires in the plant.

There is present in every case subtle efforts to delude the workers into the belief that they are exercising a voice in industry, when as a matter of fact the employer holds the veto and deciding power. It is quite apparent that the underlying motive in all these schemes is to prevent the workers from organizing or joining a trade union or to weaken the trade union where it may exist and thereby disable the workers from entering into an effective strike to force the employer beyond his veto and deciding power.

The workers are not satisfied to sell their right of combining and striking for any plausible or partial participation in management. The American workers distrust the latter because it is in keeping with the old oligarchic strategy by which democracy has been defeated in detail. The triumph of employers heretofore virtually consisted in granting popular control in such small quantities that the control could and has been controlled.

The question that concerns men who want orderly progress instead of revolution is whether business and industry will collaborate with labor or will take an attitude that will drive labor to wrest from them, by revolutionary methods, a new order in industry.

Workers organized in trade unions need not accept without protest the arbitrary ruling of an employer. They have the means and the independence and the machinery with which to make effective protest. History is written largely by the protests that have been made against the arbitrary rulings of those entrenched in authority. When the employers' decree marks the limit of progress, then the hope that burns in the breast of thinking men and women will have come upon sad and evil times.

Industrial democracy is the great goal of the future. It is the thing to which the eyes of men are turned. It must and will be a real democracy of industry. No sham will do. And not all the advice of "experts" will serve to inflict upon the working people anything labeled "just as good."

Doubtless many of these "experts" and experimenters are imbued with a fine zeal and actuated by the best of motives. Many an honest man has bought fakery from many an honest man. To be deceived and harmed by a friend, though well intentioned, is as painful and harmful as deliberate and intentional wrong-doing by a foe.

The outstanding feature of it all is that there is a growing consciousness of the determination on the part of the workers to put an end to all that savors of industrial autocracy. With his object in view, the workers of America will continue to agitate, educate and organize into trade unions and through their trade unions fight their own battles for industrial freedom, industrial justice and industrial democracy.—American Federationist.

OLD WORLD MUST END, SAYS LLOYD GEORGE

London, England, Sept. 20.—Premier Lloyd George has issued a message to the people of Great Britain in the Future, which will be distributed free throughout the country. The premier says:

"Millions of gallant young men have fought for the new world. Hundreds of thousands died to establish it. If we fail to honor the promise given them we dishonor ourselves.

"What does the new world mean? What was the old world like? It was a world where toil for myriads of honest workers, men and women, purchased nothing better than squalor, penury, anxiety, wretchedness; a world scarred by slums, disgraced by sweating, where unemployment, through the vicissitudes of industry, brought despair to multitudes of humble homes. A world where, side by side with want, there was waste of the inexhaustible riches of the earth, partly through ignorance and want of forethought, partly through entrenched selfishness.

"If we renew the lease of that world, we shall betray the heroic dead. We shall be guilty of the basest perfidity that ever blackened a people's fame. Nay, we shall store up retribution for ourselves and our children.

"The old world must and will come to an end. No effort can shore it up much longer. If there be any who feel inclined to maintain it, let them beware lest it fall upon them and overwhelm them and their households in ruin.

"It should be the sublime duty of all, without thought of partisanship, to help in the building up of the new world, where labor shall have its just reward and indolence alone shall suffer want."

$2,000,000 BACK PAY.

New York, Sept. 20.—Retroactive wages due the machine shop employes of the Bethlehem Steel company's plant in Bethlehem, Pa., for the period from August 1, 1918, to March 1, 1919, as a result of a wage arbitration award made by the war labor board, will total between $2,000,000 and $3,000,000.

Approximately 9,000 machine shop workers, who will benefit by the award, have been laid off since the armistice was signed and all former employes of the plant have been urged to send their names and addresses to the Machinists' union in Allentown, Pa., in order that their claims may be settled.

Representatives of the war labor board and the ordnance department of the war department are now engaged in computing the amounts due individual employes, and a search is being made for them.

5 AIDS GET $50,000 EACH.

Washington, Sept. 20.—Representative Thompson, of Ohio, charged in a talk in the house that 72 officials of the railroad administration, described as "men on the staff of the director general," are receiving annual salaries aggregating $2,286,000.

Railroad administration officials receiving the big salaries were given by Mr. Thompson as follows: Five at $50,000 each; two at $40,000; three at $35,000; two at $30,000; eight at $25,000; eleven at $20,000; one at $18,500; one at $18,000; one at $17,500; six at $15,000; one at $14,000; one at $13,200; one at $12,500; four at $12,000; one at $10,800; one at $10,600, and twenty-three at $10,000.

ALL PAY NEW SCALE.

Saginaw, Mich., Sept. 20.—When Electrical Workers' union presented a demand for an increase in wages from 55 cents per hour to 75 cents, all contractors except four agreed to the advance. An open meeting was called to which the recalcitrant contractors were invited. They responded. After an open and free discussion they too finally agred to fall into line and meet the demands made by the workers, ending a strike that had been on since June 1 last.

WAGES ADVANCED.

Fort Worth, Tex., Sept. 20.—The men employed in the street cleaning department of the city, all members of the union, received an increase of $1.50 per week. This is the third advance in eighteen months, being a raise of $1.50 per day and makes the minimum $3.20.

BARBERS WIN INCREASE.

Jersey City, N. J., Sept. 20.—The strike of the union barbers has terminated by employers agreeing to a $25 minimum, reduction of hours and 50 per cent bonus on all over $40 weekly from each chair.

BUILDING TRADES WON EVERY POINT

Miami, Fla., Sept. 20.—By yielding every point in the controversy with the Building Trades council, the Greater Miami association, organized to make Miami a non-union city, completely failed in its efforts. The fight has been on for several weeks and was prosecuted with much vigor and apparent determination on the part of the unfair contractors who had under construction operations aggregating nearly $3,000,000. Under the settlement all men are to return to their former positions and such unfair men as have been employed in the meantime will be discharged. While the minimum wages of the carpenters is $6.50 many of them are being paid a higher rate. Painters are receiving $1 per hour and plasterers $9 per day.

Mr. Marcus A. Milam, spokesman for the Greater Miami association, said: "We believe it would be better for the general interests of the city to terminate the unfortunate dispute now than to carry on a labor war from which the city might not recover in years."

HE FALSIFIED RECORDS.

Washington, Sept. 20.—The following charge is officially recorded against Representative Blanton, who has been repeatedly attacking the trade union on the floor of the house whenever an occasion permitted. At last his sins have found him out. It will be nice reading for his constituents when he seeks election as governor of the great state of Texas, as reports indicate he aspires to. The incident as reported in a local paper, reads:

"The house ruled that Representative Blanton, of Texas, had falsified the record of the house by writing into the stenographic transcript of the proceedings certain remarks which were not made. The house passed a resolution, offered by Representative Wingo, democrat, of Arkansas, condemning 'falsification of the records of its proceedings,' and ordered expurgation of a statement inserted in the record by Mr. Blanton attacking Representative Dewalt."

COMPENSATION INCREASED.

Madison, Wis., Sept. 20.—The compensation law as amended by the last session of the legislature became effective September 1. The amendment fixes the maximum compensation at $14.62 weekly, increased from $9.75. The minimum was advanced from $4.88 to $6.83 weekly. These increases are the result of wage advances during the war period. The old rate was based on a wage rate of $2.50 per day, while an investigation revealed that the average daily pay now is $3.75.

NAMES LABOR DELEGATES.

London, England, Sept. 20.—The Norwegian government has appointed the speaker of the lower house of the storthing, Johan Castberg, a labor democrat, as delegate to the labor conference in Washington in October. The other delegates are Ole Lian, a socialist member of the storthing; Dr. L. O. Range, inspector of factories; Mrs. Betsy Kjelsberg, factory inspector; Th. G. Thorsen, secretary of the ministry of labor, and Director Paus.

UPHOLSTERERS GET RAISE.

New York, Sept. 20.—When the final settlement was reached between representatives of Upholsterers' union No. 44, and the employers the result showed a daily wage of $9.25, which is a $3 increase. The hours are reduced to 40 per week in the slack season and 44 when busy. The women workers three years ago earned $9 per week, later received $12.50 and now get $28.60 per week.

WON IN FIVE DAYS.

Salt Lake, Utah, Sept. 20.—After a five-day strike members of Printing Pressmen's union No. 148 won an increase in wages ranging from $2 to $8 per week. Cylinder foremen get $39 and journeymen $36 per week. Platen foremen are advanced to $37, while journeymen go to $35. A further equalization of wages of the various grades of work was also secured.

PAINTERS GET ADVANCE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 20.—The union painters becoming dissatisfied with the wages they were receiving determined to seek an advance. They prepared a new scale which called for 75 cents an hour, and presented it to the contracting painters, which was accepted after a few preliminaries.

WHY SUCH LOW PAY FOR PROFESSORS?

New York, Sept. 20.—One of the Harvard graduates, says the New York World, who are now in Cambridge planning its campaign for an endowment fund of $11,000,000 for the university, asked President Lowell why Harvard faculties of former days had more eminent members than now, and was thus enlightened: "There are lots of good fish in the sea still, and plenty of good fish here, but they don't get enough to eat." And with regard to this question of sustenance, porters displayed in the college yard showing figures of a professor and a motorman bear the inscription: "A motorman gets 60 cents an hour, a professor 18. Which is worth more, gentlemen, minding the train or training the mind?"

That is a question which is bothering other people besides college presidents. In its broad application it is the present problem of all "intellectuals" in its bearing on their future place in the economic scheme. The ratio of the motorman wages to the professor's causes a good deal of serious thinking on the part of young men just leaving college to make their way in the world.

At one time a professor was a magnet which drew the best minds of the country to the college. But does the hope of the post compensate nowadays for the financial sacrifices? Industry offers a greater prize. High thinking with plain living has generally gone out of fashion. The ... is that even the most generous college endowments conceivable cannot provide the "fishes" with as much to eat as they can find in the open sea.

GOV. BICKETT ASSISTED.

High Point, N. C., Sept. 20.—Through the assistance of Governor T. W. Bickett the strike of 4,000 textile workers here has been adjusted. The trouble arose as the result of the manufacturers attempting to thwart the efforts that were being made to organize the textile workers. The agreement permits the return of all the strikers and the company has acceded the right of the workers to have a committee to present all grievances that may arise in the future. While the workers did not succeed in getting all they struck for, they have established the fact that they are there to stay until the improvements are secured. The loyalty and determination of the workers was tested by remaining out for a period of seven weeks, and when the agreement was signed there were no signs of weakness.

ONE-DAY STRIKE.

Zanesville, Ohio, Sept. 20.—The Journeymen Tailors' union won its strike in just 24 hours. Hours are reduced from nine to eight and wages increased from 20 per cent up, and piece work abolished. Tailors, pressers and operators will hereafter receive $36 per week.

Superior, Wis., Sept. 20.—Union tailors have secured an increase in rates as the result of a strike that gives them a minimum of $17 and a maximum of $30 per week and abolition of piece work.

COMMENDABLE RECORD.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 20.—Union labor has every right to be proud of the patriotic record made by the United Mine Workers of America throughout the last three years. The report of Secretary-Treasurer William Green, made to the national convention of the mine workers, showed that 53,812 members had served in the American forces during the war, of whom 3,223 had laid down their lives. The international and local unions, together, purchased more than $9,800,000 in war savings stamps and liberty bonds, and the miners are credited with having increased coal production from 590,000,000 tons, in 1916, to 684,000,00 tons last year.

EMBALMERS' UNION.

Houston, Tex., Sept. 20.—Houston has produced something new in the line of unions. It is claimed that the Undertakers' and Embalmers' union No. 16,866, chartered by the American Federation of Labor, is the first of its kind in existence. Word has been received from undertakers and embalmers in Galveston, Beaumont and other cities of southwestern Texas that they are also desirous of pursuing a similar course.

FIRE FIGHTERS UNITE.

San Diego, Cal., Sept. 20.—Fire Fighters' union No. 145 has been formed and includes all men from captains down, making it a 100 per cent union.

LABOR UNIONS JOIN HANDS WITH CO-OPS.

New York, Sept. 20.—The Tribune's London correspondent sends the following story, dealing with the co-operative movement in Great Britain, from which is taken those excerpts:

"The great trade union movement in Britain, with its 5,000,000 members, has decided to join forces with the Union of British Co-operative societies, with a membership of about 5,000,000, in order to dominate production, consumption and distribution in Britain.

"This amalgamation will represent the greatest business combination in history. It will dwarf in power if not in funds, the gigantic Federation of British industries, with its capital of $20,000,000,000.

"The new combination is organized to fight such organizations as the British Federation. In its international aspect the combined trade union and co-operative movements will be the greatest enemy of 'big business' interests throughout the world.

"In Britain alone the combined unions would include nearly three-quarters of the inhabitants. If the organizers have their way it will be invincible in the industrial field.

"It is estimated that after allowing for overlapping of membership the combined movements control 7,000,000 adult members. Close on 7,000,000 families would support the trust and each of these families would include on an average two adults and three children.

"A joint advisory council of cooperators and trade unions has been constituted to draw up a plan of campaign for the new organization."

OLD STORY RETOLD.

Boston, Sept. 20.—About one-third of the girls employed in making sweaters in this state receive less than $10 a week, and more than three-fourths receive less than $15, according to statements at a meeting of knit-goods workers, held at the state house, at which Miss Mabel Gillespie of the minimum wage commission presided.

It was said that some of the girls worked during lunch hours in the hope of increasing their earnings, but found that they got no pay for the extra work. Factory inspectors, according to some witnesses, pass girls manifestly under 16 years of age without asking their age, though they occasionally query girls of 20, asking them if they are more than 16 years old. The girls are said to have been unable to organize, and it was reported that one, who recommended asking the company for a wage increase, was reported and discharged. One girl, it was said, received only $1.60 a week, until protests were made.

POTTERS GET INCREASE.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Sept. 20.—The joint conference held at Atlantic City between representatives of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters and the United Potters' Association terminated in an increase of 5 per cent to all branches of the general ware and china trades. It is understood that the increase applies on the present surplusage. The new agreement runs for a period of two years. A proviso was inserted that permits the reopening of the agreement for the presentation of further claims for an increase if the cost of living continues to increase.

TEACHERS CLOSE SCHOOLS.

Linton, Ind., Sept. 20.—The 25 school teachers in Stockton township, Greene county, did not open schools as planned, because of a difference between the township trustees and a Teachers' union, which was organized during the summer. There was a discrepancy in the wage rate the teachers were to receive. The trustees had secured the services of other teachers to fill the vacated positions, but when the situation was explained to them they too refused to assume the duties of the other teachers.

NEW SWITCHMEN'S UNIONS.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 20.—President S. E. Heberling of the Switchmen's union reports the formation of the following lodges during the past month: Joseph Smith lodge No. 239, Ogden, Utah; Rainbow lodge No. 240, Dealhart, Texas; Port Huron lodge No. 241, Port Huron, Mich.; Tucson Desert lodge No. 242, Tucson, Ariz.; Yosemite lodge No. 243, Fresno, Cal.

$7 A DAY FOR PAINTERS.

Stockton, Cal., Sept. 20.—The new scale of the Painters' union which calls for $7 a day went into effect without a hitch.

COUNTRY MUST FACE MOST SERIOUS CRISIS

Salt Lake, Utah, Sept. 20.—Although labor conditions in the state of Utah are about as normal as anywhere in the United States, Governor Bamberger, a leading banker and copper company director, declared in talking to an eastern newspaper correspondent, that this state was surrounded by an angry sea of unrest.

"We are facing the most serious crisis in this country since the civil war," said the banker. "Although there are no extensive strikes in Utah, the general spirit of unrest throughout the country reaches here. It is like an epidemic. It spreads like the influenza."

"The great trouble is that the people who can and ought to take the lead in solving our industrial problems are the most unreasonable. There are ten or twelve millionaires in this city who cannot see their own faults and who are always complaining about strikes and labor unrest. They are the worst offenders in the United States.

"They create the radicals because they begrudge the poor man a living wage. I have been the owner of a railroad for 30 years and I have never had a strike. I have never had the slightest fear that anything would happen.

"My own experience shows that if you treat the people right there will be no trouble. Now what we need in this country is for capital and labor to get better acquainted. We should talk to each other, exchange ideas and take time for each other socially. There has been too much of a 'spirit of every man' for himself; too much independence.

"As far as Utah is concerned we are not at all apprehensive, but we cannot shut ourselves off from the rest of the world. I must say that most of our mine operators and employers have been liberal and farsighted, but there are a dozen worthless millionaires here, who own city property, live off of their community. They do not see the handwriting on the wall. They do not know that the action of the king of Italy in giving up the crown lands to the people is significant of our times. They will not see it until it is too late for them. But these worthless dogs here have a lot to learn. Co-operation and not oppression is the spirit of our age."

FOR GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

Washington, Sept. 20.—George P. Hampton, managing director of the Farmers' National council, has issued a statement, in which he pointed out the economic dangers which the council sees looming up ahead unless the principle of government ownership be recognized. In his statement Mr. Hampton said:

"It is most unfortunate that some farm leaders have seized upon the present situation to attack labor as responsible for the high cost of living. The great economic causes of the high cost of living must be eliminated to improve the economic condition of both farm and city labor. We must have government ownership of the natural resources with democratic operation, the products to be sold at cost.

"The American farmer has been mulcted under private ownership of the railroads and of shipping. Neither railroad freight rates not ocean freight rates can be reduced if the railroads are returned to private owners and we sell the ships built with our money under the plans being considered by congress today."

GRANTED MORE PAY.

Dallas, Texas, Sept. 20.—Through the assistance of the central labor union the Waiters' and Waitresses' union negotiated a new wage rate which will give them an advance from $15 to $20 for the counter hands and from $15 to $18 for those on the floor. The new conditions include all hotels and restaurants in the city.

San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 20.—Three of the leading hotels have signed with Cooks' union No. 44, fixing the wage scale at rates ranging from $22.50 to $55 per week, according to the class of work.

ENGLISH WAGE RAISES.

London, England, Sept. 20.—Increases in wages which came into operation in July affected over 200,000 work people, and over 1,500,000 work people (mostly in the coal mining and cotton industries) obtained reductions in hours of labor. On August 1 the general level of retail prices of food and other items entering into the cost of living was about 115 per cent above the prewar level, as compared with about 105 per cent at the beginning of June; the percentage is, however, still below that recorded just before the armistice, when it was between 120 and 125.

$1 AN HOUR; 5-DAY WEEK.

New York, Sept. 20.—The District council of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers has won its fight for the 5-day week and $1 an hour. When a settlement was reached with about fifty contractors composing the United Contractors' association the end had come. The representatives of the district council refused to sign any agreement with the Association of Master Painters, as they chose to term themselves. The painters alleged that that body violated all its agreements with the district and will be given no recognition hereafter.

WAGE ADVANCES.

Portland, Oreg., Sept. 20.—Electrical Workers' union No. 48 and the Plumbers' union have advanced wages, effective immediately. The plumbers' scale is $9 for eight hours and the electrical workers $8 for the same number of hours. Where contracts were made previous to the adoption of the new rates they will be completed at the old wage.

SUNDAY WAGE DOUBLED.

Hazleton, Pa., Sept. 20.—Anthracite pump runners getting $3.20 a day for a 12-hour shift on Sundays were given 100 per cent increase for Sabbath assignments by a decision handed down, here by Charles P. Neill, of Washington, head of the conciliation board.

STRIKE SETTLED.

Stafford Springs, Conn., Sept. 20.—The strikers at the Warren Woolen company's plants have returned to work. The terms of the settlement were 44 per cent increase in wages and a weekly bonus of $3.00.

CUMMINS' MEASURE SPELLS REVOLUTION

Washington, Sept. 20.—Pronounced and vigorous opposition has developed against Senator Cummin's bill which contains a provision that would deprive railroad employe of the right to strike. This provision of the bill has been given close and intensive study by the various railroad unions' officials who would be directly affected. As a result these officials who represent over 2,000,000 railroad workers, have issued a statement vigorously and mercilessly attacking this provision of the measure and have determined on an intensive campaign to secure its defeat.

The statement is signed by 14 officials and includes the presidents of the four railroad brotherhoods, the acting president of the railway employes' department of the American Federation of Labor and nine presidents of unions whose members are directly employed by the various railroads.

The exact language of the Cummins provision, against which the vigorous protest is being made, follows:

If two or more persons enter into any combination or agreement with the intent substantially to hinder, restrain or prevent the movement of commodities or persons in interstate commerce, or enter into any combination or agreement which substantially hinders, restrains or prevents the movement of commodities, or persons in interstate commerce, such persons of combining and agreeing shall be deemed guilty of a conspiracy, and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $500 or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; provided, that nothing herein shall be taken to deny to any individual the right to quit his employment for any reason.

"A law such as this would spell the end of labor organizations in America," says the statement. "Is this the intent of the provision? Does congress, at the behest of the alarmed system, propose to try to break up the organization of labor throughout the country? Is it decided that the time has come to make this final fight? These are the questions that demand an answer and which every working man in the country is asking as he reads the newspapers. In his heart he knows that to enact this law would spell more than death to trade unionism. It would spell the birth of revolution."

"This provision not only would make it illegal to strike with intent to hinder interstate commerce, but also would make it illegal to enter into any combination or agreement which does hinder interstate commerce. Intent would not have to be proved in the courts. Thus the provision is ironclad, for any strike on the railroads, of however small proportions, would unquestionably hinder interstate commerce. The provision is carefully written to remove from railway labor the right to strike under any possible circumstances.

"If this provision was enacted into law, it would impose upon railway labor two insupportable conditions, namely, compulsory arbitration and economic servitude.

"The right to strike as a last resort is ingrained in the nature of the American working man; he has inherited it from the declaration of independence, from the constitution of the United States, from every tradition of this free people, from every achievement in the history of our great nation. If he failed to cherish his economic freedom he would no longer be a true American. To attempt to put such a prohibitive law into operation, therefore, would be madness. No leadership in the world could restrain the rank and file of American labor under such an imposition. The human factors called forth would be beyond control."

ONE-DAY STRIKE WON.

Portland, Oreg., Sept. 20.—Journeymen Tailors' union went on strike on Wednesday to enforce a new wage rate. Tuesday all the merchant tailors and clothing merchants came to terms. The new conditions call for the abolition of the piece work system, a maximum for journeymen of $40 and a 44-hour week.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 20.—As the result of an agreement between Journeymen Tailors' union No. 51 and employers the piece work system was abolished and an 8-hour day established. It was also agreed, that journeymen tailors will receive a weekly wage of $36; first-class help, $24; helpers, $18; and apprentices, $8.

COLORED MEN ORGANIZE.

Ada, Okla., Sept. 20.—The organization of employers recently formed for the purpose of intimidating and preventing the formation of new unions in this city has not been very successful in its efforts. Despite its announced antagonism, the colored laborers have formed a federal labor union and applied to the A. F. of L. for a charter, and propose, with the assistance of the other unions, to hereafter fix a price on their labor and have the benefits of a collective bargain, which has heretofore been denied them.

NEW CHARTERS ISSUED.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 20.—General Secretary Treasurer Jacob Fischer, of the Journeymen Barbers' International union, reports the issuing of new charters to the following local unions during August: Anniston, Ala.; Red Lodge, Mont.; Kalamath, Oreg.; Tipton, Ind.; Sturgis, Mich.; Duncan, Okla.; High Point, N. C.; Sunbury, Pa.; Rhinelander, Wis.; Winston-Salem, N. C.; Jacksonville, Tex.; New York, N. Y., and Shenandoah, Pa.

IMPROVE CONDITIONS.

Bremerton, Wash., Sept. 20.—Retail Clerks' union No. 381 has secured a new agreement with the merchants which calls for a union store, stores open from 8 a. m. until 6 p. m.; male employes to receive no less than $22.50 and females no less than $18 per week; apprentices to commence at $13.50 and at the end of the year to receive full pay.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE.

Cleveland, Sept. 20.—Union stage employes secured a substantial increase in wages, ranging from $5 to $130 a week. Those who received $25 and $30 a week in the past will get $35 and $50 a week, respectively. Extra men, who received $2 for each performance, will be paid $2.50 for each show.